

**METROPOLITAN WASHINGTON D.C. SYNOD OF THE ELCA  
SUMMARY OF SYNOD COUNCIL TELECONFERENCE MEETING ON JANUARY 18, 2012  
SUMMARY OF SYNOD COUNCIL MEETING ON JANUARY 28, 2012 AT  
CHRIST LUTHERAN CHURCH, FAIRFAX, VIRGINIA**

In a teleconference meeting that took place on January 18, 2012, the following action was taken:

**Motion SC 01.18.01** -- To take Christus Victor Lutheran Church, Manassas, VA under synodical administration effective February 6, 2012 and call to the Metropolitan Washington DC Synod as Mission Developer of Christus Victor Lutheran Church, Manassas, VA, effective February 27, 2012, The Rev. Connie Thomson. Compensation package includes base salary of \$100,000, ELCA pension at 12% of defined compensation, ELCA Medical-Dental-Optical Insurance, automobile and travel allowance at IRS rate, continuing education of \$500, up to \$4800 in moving expenses, vacation time of four weeks per year including four Sundays, and continuing education of two weeks per year.

The motion was unanimously adopted.

The following is the summary of the Synod Council Meeting that took place on January 28, 2012:

The proposed agenda for the January 28, 2012 meeting of the Metropolitan Washington D.C. Synod Council was accepted.

The Minutes of the November 19, 2011 Synod Council Meeting were approved.

**Primary Mission Table Conversation**

- Mission Strategy for congregations in Prince George's County, Maryland.
- Proposed merger of Our Saviour's Lutheran Church, Temple Hills, MD with St. Michael's Truth, Mitchellville, MD

Recommendation to Synod Council on the Use of Bethany Funds

When Bethany Lutheran Church in Forrestville, MD voted to close in February, 2011, they adopted the following resolution for the use of the funds:

"The congregation will decide together on how to give away 10% of the assets to non-profit/ministries of its choosing. **The remainder will go to the Synod to help further the work of the Gospel by giving 10% of the resource to the ELCA and 90% would be used to start new congregations and redevelop existing congregations in the Synod.**

Consistent with this purpose, this task group recommends to Synod Council that:

1. One half of the funds will be available for appropriate use in the short term.

2. One half of the funds will be invested in an existing Synodical endowment fund (the Finance Committee will determine which one is most appropriate). The purpose and use of the funds will remain as Bethany directed, the corpus is set aside unless the Synod Council decides it is needed for an appropriate project.

The use of these funds will be reviewed by Synod Council at least every two years.

3. The New and Renewing Mission Table will vet and prioritize potential mission projects. They will make recommendations to the Synod Council who will have the authority to approve the use of the funds.

4. As strategies emerge for the renewal of congregations in Prince George's County, the resourcing of those strategies will be a priority for these funds.

5. The Christus Victor redevelopment project be funded from the Bethany monies up to \$150,000.

6. Preference be given to staffing rather than building costs.

After extensive discussion, the recommendation of the ad hoc committee was moved and seconded. Pr. Grantson moved an amendment to the main motion replacing item 4 in the original motion to reserve half of the funds for ministry in Prince George's County. This amendment carried. When the voice vote on the main motion as amended was not clear, Mr. Handley called for a division. The motion was passed by a vote of 9 to 6.

Further, Assistant to the Bishop, Pr. Amy Thompson-Sevimli pointed out that strong benchmarks including tithing to the Synod, and accountability to those benchmarks, will be part of the Synod's partnership with congregations receiving these funds.

## **Bishop Graham**

### Roster matters

- Ordained
- Anteneh Gabresalassie – Dec 10
- To serve as Assoc. Pastor at Resurrection, Arlington, VA
- Bette Jeanne Larson – Dec 17
- To serve as Pastor at Salem Evangelical Lutheran Church, DE/MD Synod
- Installed
- Ray Ranker – 14 Nov 2011
- Anteneh Gebresalassie – 15 Jan 2012
- Robert Lehman – 29 Jan 2012
- Sandra Kessinger – 04 Feb 2012
- Transferred in
- Sandra Kessinger from SW PA Synod
- To serve as Pastor of Lutheran Church of the Redeemer, McLean, VA
- Connie Thomson from Indiana – Kentucky Synod
- To serve as Pastor of Christus Victor Lutheran Church, Manassas, VA
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- Robert Lehman from DE/MD Synod
- To serve as Pastor of St. Nicholas, Huntingtown, MD
- Transferred out
- The Rev. Darrell Morton to NW MN Synod
- Ina Berkey, AIM to VA Synod

### **Treasurer's Report**

**John Handley**

The financial reports as of 12/31/11 were reviewed with council. Benevolence income is still running behind the pace needed to cover current spending. January is typically a good month for receipts from congregations, though.

The Faith Fund report for 2011 was also reviewed with the council. Distributions were made for the Outreach portion of the fund (\$14,160) and the Seminarian support portion of the fund (\$7080) in accordance with the Faith Fund Memorandum.

### **WELCA Report**

**Bonnie Priebe**